

Patent Claims

1. Method for billing for a data transmission (1, 31, 61) in a telecommunication network (TKN) using at least two billing accounts (K1, K2, K3) which can be addressed by a selection message from a communication terminal (KEG1), where the method involves

- the data transmission (1, 31, 61) sent to the communication terminal (KEG1) of a communication subscriber or sent from the communication terminal (KEG1) being started,

characterized in that

- a network element (MSC, SGSN) in the telecommunication network receives the selection message (8, 37a, 67) from the communication terminal (KEG1) after the start of the data transmission, with the selection message containing an identifier for the billing account (K1) which is to be used for billing for the data transmission, and
- this billing account (K1) is then used to bill for the data transmission,

2. Method according to Claim 1,

characterized in that

- the network element (MSC, SGSN) in the telecommunication network (TKN) sends a selection request message (7, 37, 66) to the communication terminal (KEG1) after the start of the data transmission, and

- the selection message (8, 37a, 67) which is then sent by the communication terminal (KEG) is received by the network element in the telecommunication network.

3. Method according to one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

- if the selection message (8, 37a, 67) is not received then a predetermined billing account (K3) is used to bill for the data transmission.

4. Method according to either of Claims 2 and 3,

characterized in that

- the selection request message (7, 37, 66) is sent to the communication terminal (KEG1) before the data transmission is terminated.

5. Method according to one of Claims 2 to 4,

characterized in that

- a switching node (MSC, SGSN) in the telecommunication network recognizes the start of the data transmission (1, 31, 61),
- the switching node informs a service control point (SCP) in the telecommunication network about the start of the data transmission (3, 33, 63), and

- the service control point (SCP) then prompts the sending of the selection request message (7, 37, 66) to the communication terminal (KEG1) (5, 35, 65).

6. Method according to Claim 2 or 3,

characterized in that

- the selection request message (7, 37, 66) is sent to the communication terminal (KEG1) after the data transmission is terminated.

7. Method according to one of Claims 2 to 4 or 6,

characterized in that

- a switching node (MSC, SGSN) in the telecommunication network recognizes the end of the data transmission (1, 31, 61),
- the switching node informs a service control point (SCP) in the telecommunication network about the end of the data transmission (3, 33, 63), and
- the service control point (SCP) then prompts the sending of the selection request message (7, 37, 66) to the communication terminal (KEG1) (5, 35, 65).

8. Method according to one of Claims 5 to 7,

characterized in that

- the sending of the selection request message (7) is prompted by sending a send request message (6) to the switching centre (MSC) in the telecommunication network (TKN).

9. Method according to one of Claims 2 to 8,

characterized in that

- the selection request message is sent in the form of a USSD message (7), and
- the selection message is then received in the form of a second USSD message (8).

10. Method according to one of Claims 5 to 7,

characterized in that

- the sending of the selection request message (37) is prompted by sending a send request message (36) to a voice output unit (IP) in the telecommunication network (TKN).

11. Method according to one of Claims 2 to 7 or 10,

characterized in that

- the selection request message is sent in the form of a voice message (37), and
- the selection message (37a) is then received.

12. Method according to one of Claims 5 to 7,

characterized in that

- the sending of the selection request message (66) is prompted by sending a send request message (65) to a short message service centre (SMSC) in the telecommunication network (TKN).

13. Method according to one of Claims 2 to 7 or 12,

characterized in that

- the selection request message is sent in the form of a written short message (66), and
- the selection message is then received in the form of a second written short message (67).